

CLAIMS

1. A telecommunications network including at least one service control point and a plurality of interconnected service switching points, said service control point being responsive to signals received from a gateway to another network to cause a call to be set up between two or more termination points of the telecommunications network, the service control point sending a message including a first instruction to one of the service switching points to cause a connection to a first of said two or more termination points characterised in that the service control point sends a second instruction embedded in the message to the same service switching point, said second instruction forcing a response from that service switching point whereby an identity assigned by the service switching point to action embedded in the first instruction is captured by the service control point whereby further instruction signals received from the gateway prior to receipt by the service control point of an event message from the service switching point can be used by the service control point to send a modifying instruction message to the service switching point.
2. A telecommunications network as claimed in claim 1 in which the gateway is present on a connectionless network and interfaces between the connectionless network and the telecommunications network to transfer instructions from a computer terminal of the connectionless network thus enabling a call connection in the telecommunications network to be originated by the computer terminal.
3. A telecommunications network as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2 in which the first instruction received by the service control point includes the identity of two termination points of the telecommunications network, a first of which is associated with the originating computer terminal and the other of which is derived from a page of information being viewed on the computer terminal.
4. A telecommunications network as claimed in claim 1, claim 2 or claim 3 in which the first instruction transmitted by the service control point causes a ringing instruction to be transmitted to the first termination point.
5. A telecommunications network as claimed in any preceding claim in which the second instruction requests charging information to be returned.
6. A telecommunications network as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 4 in which the second instruction contains an invalid instruction to the service switching point to cause the return of an associated query message.

7. A telecommunications network as claimed in any preceding claim in which the subsequent instruction received from the gateway is a cancellation instruction which causes the service control point to transmit an abort message to the service switching point to effect cancellation of the call in progress.
- 5 8. A telecommunications network as claimed in any preceding claim in which the connectionless network is an intranet or the internet, the gateway being responsible for converting protocol between the connectionless network and the connection oriented network.
9. A telecommunications network as claimed in any preceding claim 8 in which the 10 connection oriented network is the PSTN. 5.